With this Dec. 2012 issue, I will step down as the Chief Editor of the Journal of Astrophysics and Astronomy (JAA) at the end of a term of three years. From 2013, Prof. Ram Sagar will take charge as the new Chief Editor of JAA.

This is an appropriate time to take stock of the new developments we have carried out at JAA in the past three years:

1. The main new change brought about is a significantly more rapid processing of manuscripts. The process of handling the manuscript is now streamlined. We introduced a new format for processing the manuscripts in which each incoming manuscript is assigned by the Chief Editor to a Scientific Editor who is a specialist in that particular field, who then identifies the referee and oversees correspondence with the referee and the authors until the paper is accepted/rejected. This procedure makes the best use of the expertise of the Editorial Board members who can identify a suitable referee as relevant for the material in the manuscript. This is the standard procedure in most international journals in this field.

2. A new initiative was taken to introduce invited reviews on active areas. The first review published is titled *Carbon Stars* by L. Evans (*J. Astrophys. Astr.*, 2010, vol. 31, No. 4, p. 177). Two other reviews have been commissioned and are due to appear in JAA in 2013. These are: *Chemical and Kinematical Origin of Metal-poor stars* by T. Sivarani, and *Nuclear Activity in Low Surface Brightness Galaxies* by M. Das.

3. Publishing proceedings of relevant International conferences as special issues of JAA was encouraged. The following two special issues were published in 2011, and a third is scheduled to be published in 2013:


I take this opportunity to thank all the Editorial Board members and the JAA staff for their sustained efforts and co-operation as a team. I would like to thank all the referees for providing critical and timely assessment of manuscripts, and for taking time away
from their own research for doing this. Thanks to the referees' incisive comments, the quality of the papers published in JAA is high.

Note that the other advantages of publishing at JAA remain the same as before: no page charges, a fairly flexible page limit for the papers, and the publication with Springer that ensures high visibility and prompt, wide dissemination. I hope that this will induce authors to contribute high-quality papers to JAA, and thus make JAA into a more vibrant journal.

Chanda J. Jog

Chief Editor